

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows. This listing of claims replaces all other listing of claims.

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (currently amended) The utensil of claim ~~6~~ 13 further comprising at least one hole extending through said food receptacle and at least one corresponding prong extending through said at least one hole for holding said food product.
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (withdrawn) A food utensil comprising:
 - an elongated hollow body for encasing an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall forming an interior and an outer wall, an open first end and a closed second end, a diameter, a length greater than said diameter, and, a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end;

a plurality of blades extending across said interior, whereby said plurality of blades is the only plurality of blades of said food utensil, and each of said plurality of blades is substantially laterally aligned at an outermost portion thereof with a respective outermost portion of each of the remaining plurality of blades; and

a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.

12. (withdrawn) The utensil of claim 11 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.

13. (previously presented) An appliance comprising:

an elongated hollow body for supporting an elongated food product, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior, a diameter, and a length greater than said diameter;

a plurality of blades fixed within said interior and extending across said interior thereby preventing movement of said plurality of blades; and

a receptacle for holding an item to be sliced, that upon appliance operation is slidably engaged along said outer wall thereby forcing said item against said blades for slicing thereof.

14. (previously presented) A method of slicing a food item comprising:

providing a fixed plurality of blades within an elongated hollow body and across a diameter thereof thereby preventing movement of said plurality of blades, the elongated hollow body having a length greater than the diameter;

inserting an elongated food item to be sliced in a receptacle, said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body; and

slidably engaging the receptacle along an outer circumference of the hollow body to bias the item against and at least partially through the blades thereby slicing the item.

15. (withdrawn) A method of slicing a food item comprising:

placing an elongated food item within an elongated hollow body of an appliance along a length of the hollow body, said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body, the elongated body having a length greater than a respective diameter;

providing a plurality of blades within the hollow body and across the diameter thereof, whereby said plurality of blades is the only plurality of blades of said appliance, and each of said plurality of blades is substantially laterally aligned at an outermost portion thereof with a respective outermost portion of each of the remaining plurality of blades; and

sliding the blades along the length of the hollow body thereby slicing at least a portion of the cylindrical food item.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)